

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

VOL. 2, No. 1

264

AUGUST 21, 1950

CREDIT UNION IS NEWEST I-S SERVICE TO MEMBERS

The recently formed Local 1-S Credit Union is giving early promise of becoming a thriving organization and a major factor in enabling its members to overcome personal economic difficulties. The Credit Union is designed to encourage members to save regularly, no matter how small the amount, and to make available low-cost loans for such productive purposes as vacations, home furnishings or the liquidation of other debts. Membership in the Credit Union is open to all members of Local 1-S and members of their immediate family living under the same roof.

Payment of a 25 cent fee accompanied by a deposit of 25 cents towards ownership of a \$5 share is all that is needed to become a member of the Credit Union. Shareholders will receive annual dividends based on the earnings of the Credit Union and will each year elect members to the Board of Directors, Credit Committee and Supervisory Committee.

Interest payments on loans cannot exceed 1% per month on the unpaid balance of any secured or unsecured loan. Each borrower is assured for three times the amount of his loan. In the event of the death of a borrower the balance of his loan is paid by his insurance and his beneficiary receives twice the amount of the loan. There is no additional charge for this insurance.

Applications for membership and loans are available at the Union office, 125 West 33rd Street. The Board of Directors meets Wednesday evenings and the Credit Committee on Mondays to review applications. Prospective members are urged to come to the office or see their Union Administrators for full information on the many advantages of belonging to the Local 1-S Credit Union which is chartered by the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions and subject to their laws and inspections. (Continued on page 4)

Speedy Grievance Settlements Prove Power Of Contract

"A terrific settlement" is the way Vice Presidents George Gurian and Elizabeth Hammond describe a recently won back pay award of close to \$800.

When comparison shopper Steward Nancy Haussman notified the Union that Lea Bialik was not receiving the correct salary the two Vice Presidents swung into action. Under their pressure the company was forced to re-open its wage records back to 1945. The search, which continued on their insistence, revealed that Miss Bialik had been consistently underpaid for more than five years. When the records were finally straightened out Miss Bialik was \$800 the richer. In the course of the I-S "treasure hunt" a discrepancy was also found in Miss Haussman's records and she received an unexpected check for \$40.

When asked why they weren't more excited about their victory the two Vice Presidents replied that it was "all in a day's work and part of the service every union member is entitled to."

New Contract Has Teeth

An executive of 65 Department who hadn't troubled to study the (Continued on page 4)

I-S Members At L-B Confident Of Victory

Local 1-S members at Ludwig Baumann gleefully agreed that they had never seen anything to compare with the whirlwind finish to their election campaign.

For six solid weeks the workers at the Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and Bronx stores were bombarded with the hard facts and figures of gains won from Macy's as compared with the sellouts they had suffered under the mis-leadership of the AFL.

As the August 24 election date draws near the workers are beginning to allow their enthusiasm to really bubble.

George Gurian, 1-S Vice President in charge of the Ludwig Baumann drive, shook his head and cautioned that, "nothing is in the bag until the votes are counted." But even as he spoke one could sense his complete confidence in the outcome.

Local 1-S efforts have been amply rewarded by a steady stream of application for membership cards and a growing awareness that the new union of their choice has won its top position in the industry by militant leadership and hard bargaining.

The AFL consented to an election only after Local 1-S had exposed a fraudulent contract through which they had hoped to tie the workers up for another year. Rather than risk a charge of collusion management representatives of Ludwig Baumann and spokesmen for the Retail Clerks Local yielded to the demand of Local 1-S for a speedy election and admitted that there was nothing to stand in the way of the voting.



Ludwig Baumann workers, with an assist from Vice President Elizabeth Hammond add to the leaflet barrage showing the way to a I-S victory.

Benefit Dance For Welfare Fund At Commodore On October 20th

A benefit dance for the Local 1-S Welfare Fund will be held on Friday evening, October 20th at the swank Commodore Hotel, 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue.

Dance Committee Chairman Tony Pucca reports that a terrific evening of fun is in the making with plans for top-flight swing and rhumba bands, stellar entertainment and a genuine, dyed-in-the-wool, honest-to-goodness square dance caller who will set the party a-stompin' and a-whirlin'.

The Committee Chairman said, "One of the most encouraging things we have had happen is the number of people who have said that part of their retroactive pay, due in September, is earmarked for a pair of dance tickets. It's nice to know that people can have a wonderful time while supporting their Union."

A corps of hosts and hostesses

is being organized to guarantee that everybody, including habitual wall-flowers, gets into the swing of things. Proceeds from the dance will enable the Welfare Board to continue its program of aid to sick and needy Union members. Tickets, which will be available soon, are priced at \$1.50, tax included.

NEW OFFICIAL LOCAL I-S EMBLEM

Every Union member should own and wear one of these smartly designed lapel pins in blue and gold. Emblems come with either safety catch bar pin or screw back.

LET THE WORLD KNOW YOU BELONG TO LOCAL I-S. BUY YOUR EMBLEM TODAY — ONLY 70 CENTS AT THE UNION OFFICE



President Sam Kovenetsky was the first to buy shares in the new Local 1-S Credit Union from its Treasurer, Max Wald. Many others followed.

Union Voice Hides Facts of I-S Gains

GAINS WON IN 1949

\$33,000 Inequities \$3

\$2 per week raise

Health & Hospital Plan in

addition to sick leave pay

from 5th day up to 26 weeks

GAINS WON IN 1950

\$1 per week raise

\$100,000 inequities

Agreement extended

\$15,000 Inequities

Security Plan from

8th day up to 13 wks.

GAINS WON IN 1951

\$1.50 per week raise

Additional 50 cents per

month for Health Plan

Re-opening for inequities

Re-opening for

wages

GAINS WON IN 1952

Re-opening for wages,

Re-opening for

hours and inequities

wages

1953 — EXPIRATION DATE — 1953

From this simple comparison it can be clearly seen (Continued on page 4)

Local 1-S

1949 Contract signed

DWU

1949

1951 Original Expiration date

1953

BRANCH STORE NEWS

PARKCHESTER



Georgine Staib

Ann Gruber, P4, was reinstated with full seniority and full pay after the Union challenged her dismissal. Ann had applied for and been granted a short leave of absence. Twenty four hours before she was due to leave she was told that her LOA had been cancelled. Still acting under her doctor's orders, and protesting the high-handed manner in which the case was handled, she took her leave. We're glad she's back with us and feeling well. We're doubly glad we have a Union that fights for our rights!

... The stockworkers have reached agreement with management and have solved the problem of who is entitled to the higher paying platform work that comes along. The men have agreed to rotate the work so that they all benefit... Edythe Gould, clerical in P4, after a long run-around, finally filed a grievance and won the \$1 raise she needed to bring her to her maximum... and she got it retroactive to early May!... Mary McCarthy, former cashier, is just back from her native Ireland with an adopted colleen... everybody's waiting anxiously to see the lass... Betty Orlando, Packer, has left us to make her permanent home in Florida... best of luck, Betty... Our deepest sympathy to Andrie Pepper on the loss of her husband. We are truly sorry.

FLATBUSH



Rhea Sabran

Most everybody here has been complaining about what they considered generally unfair job reviews. Most of us felt that the reasons given for lower than excellent ratings on such items as appearance, manner, cooperation, knowledge of merchandise, etc., were pretty flimsy. One of us was told that our rating was not excellent because we had never asked our ASM any questions! Some of us filed grievances close to a month ago in the hopes of a favorable adjustment. Talks between management, the Union and the individuals are still going on... Josephine Bergamo, F5, was out of work for two weeks because the company made the "mistake" of laying her off out of seniority. Challenged by the Union, the company reinstated Josephine with pay for the time she lost... Teddy Weiss, FBA, substituted for two weeks in a higher paying job during a co-worker's illness... thanks to a Union contract that anticipated such situations, Teddy received the higher pay, instead of just being "flexed" into the department... Audrey Whitaker, F7, left Flatbush for California in June. A month later we got word that she had become engaged. Some climate in California!... Jack Jampole chewing his nails and counting the days for a visit from the stork. Relax, Jack, you're not the first to suffer and survive!

WHITE PLAINS



Hilda Proctor

Our Shop Stewards had their mid-summer meeting and it was the unanimous feeling that we must not only hold our gains, but must be even more alert in bringing to light contract violations. Among those mentioned were: promotions without salary increases; excessive paper work being done by clerks and sponsors. There was a feeling that ASM's were relegating more and more of their work to Union members. Among the gains: clerks in china and glassware will no longer have to unpack merchandise in sawdust and newspaper, nor will clerks need to carry large amounts of stock down to bargain squares. No more washing and polishing counters and show cases by clerks... All thanks to our heads-up Union and a strong contract!... Mrs. Kathleen Leerburger (Service Desk) and Mrs. Betsy McNaughton (accessories) have only the highest praise for the Union's Health Plan. They tell us that the prompt response to their need and the lack of red tape was a comfort to them when their illness struck... We were glad to see Bess Russell who visited the store after weeks of illness following a severe heart attack. She, too, praised our Health Plan. Our entertainment committee is drawing plans for our Fall dance, to be held up here — everybody's invited!

JAMAICA



Ben Calabrese

One of the things that really brought great joy to the hearts of many out here was the way the Union moved in on the fight for higher rates in 159 Department. The shabby treatment management tried to hand the people selling air conditioning units was brought to a screeching halt when 1-S representatives carried our fight to top company levels and won the same wage increase (\$3.20) that was gotten for the people at Herald Square... Murray Rimland is another beneficiary of a strong Union with his promotion from Boy's Clothing to Kitchen Furniture. Best of luck, Murray... At this writing, Tom Archibald (Men's Shop) is due for a physical for probable re-induction into the Navy. Dick Martino (Packing Division Steward) convalescing from a shoulder operation. Manny Goodson (Shoe Fitter) glad to be back on the job after his extended illness... President Sam Kovenetsky was a surprise visitor to one of our recent Store Committee meetings with Mr. Cukor. It's good to know that our Union's President keeps in close touch with all the doings in the Branch Stores as well as 34th Street. We'd all like to see him even more often!

1-S INTRODUCES MACY'S LEFT HAND TO RIGHT

Local 1-S once again caught Macy's left hand not letting its right know what it was doing. When a group of Saturday onlies came to join the Union after being assigned to full time jobs the Union found that the company had been paying them at the "Saturday only" rate on a day-to-day basis for as long as three weeks after they had become regular employees.

George Gurian and Elizabeth Hammond, the union's two Vice Presidents vehemently protested the violation of the spirit of the contract to Macy's Labor Relations Manager Fred Fischer. The company's labor chief, caught off balance by the union's charge, admitted that if the facts supported the Union's contention the company was definitely in the wrong. The Local 1-S position was upheld by the facts and all the workers involved have been rewarded with back pay and back seniority.

The Union is now demanding a complete investigation to make sure that no other workers have been made to suffer because of similar company mistakes.

Union To Soon Have Library Sub-Station

Local 1-S, in conjunction with the New York Public Library, will open a library sub-branch at the Union office in September.

Books to be available will be selected by the Union based on individual requests and general information regarding the reading preferences of Union members. The library will be changed every three months to make room for the latest fiction and non-fiction.

Special requests or general information regarding reading tastes should be addressed to Education Director Dick Pastor at the Union Office.

Members Praise 1-S Medical Plan

Many members of Local 1-S in need of highly skilled specialist care have taken advantage of the Union's new Medical Plan and have reported back on the "wonderful care" they have received.

No sooner was the plan announced than members began to request application forms for the cancer detection examinations, the names of specialists and the addresses of practitioners near their homes.

Union members laid away their life-long fears that "operations are expensive" and faced the future confident in the knowledge that if the need should arise they are completely insured by the combination of their Local 1-S Health, Hospital and Medical Plans. Surgeons operating under the Medical Plan will charge no more than the amount allowed under the Union's contract with Group Health Insurance. To members of Local 1-S and their families who will soon be receiving the full protection of the Health Plan at absolutely no cost to themselves this means nearly total insurance for the finest care and the best semi-private hospital facilities now available.

While every Union member has had the full protection of the Health Plan for himself and his family at the remarkably low cost of 50 cents a month the leaders of Local 1-S were not content. Effective February 1, 1951 the company will pay the full amount, as pro-

1-S Board Votes Support To UN; Acts For Price Control, Against Mundt Bill

Despite the oppressive end-of-July heat wave members of the Local 1-S Executive Board met to hear detailed reports on the progress of the Union's organizing drive at Ludwig Baumann, the background of the Local 65 demonstration on 34th Street and to record an endorsement of the United Nations to establish peace in Korea.

The Local's Legislative Committee submitted three resolutions which met with the approval of the Board. The first, addressed to President Truman, declared that, "In light of recent price increases in consumer goods and the inability of workers' wages to continue to provide themselves and their families with essential foods and supplies we respectfully request that you take immediate steps to roll prices back to the June 25 level and impose necessary price control. We further request that you take whatever steps you may deem necessary to limit excess profits."

In a second resolution the Board sent a telegram to United Nations

Secretary General Trygve Lie which said, "Whereas the United Nations was established to promote the peaceful solution of international disputes and to prevent military aggression this Executive Board of Local 1-S goes on record as endorsing the efforts of the United Nations to establish peace in Korea."

In its final resolution the Board authorized the sending of telegrams to Senators Herbert Lehman, Scott Lucas and Irving Ives reaffirming the opposition of Local 1-S to the Mundt-Ferguson Bill and calling on the Senators "fight against, speak against and vote against this un-American measure". The message also declared that, "democracy cannot be served on any front if it is undermined on the home front".

The executive body gave its enthusiastic approval to a report by Dance Committee Chairman Tom Pucca and urged that all members give full support to the program.

(Continued on page 4)

1-S Health Plan Now One Year Old; Union Wishes 1st Baby Happy Birthday



Pretty Joan de Camp celebrates her first birthday. Joan was born just a few hours after the 1-S Health Plan went into effect one year ago.

Pretty Joan de Camp was wished a very happy birthday on the first anniversary of the Local 1-S Health and Hospital Plan. Joan, first of 150 "1-S babies" born under the Union's insurance plan, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Le Roy de Camp. Her father is a part time worker in the Controller's Office and a student, under the G. I. Bill of Rights at the Art Students League.

Local 1-S remembered little Joan's birthday with additions to her wardrobe, a doll and a photographer to record the festivities. Local 1-S remembered little Joan's birthday with additions to her wardrobe, a doll and a photographer to record the festivities.

Payments totalling more than \$150,000 were made on 730 surgical claims, 223 cases of in-hospital medical care and 150 obstetrical cases. Seventeen Union members received payment after their use of visiting nurse service and 1130 hospital claims were paid for the best semi-private facilities to be had. Hospital payments for single illnesses have ranged from \$7.50 for an emergency entrance to \$660.

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Acts
t Bill

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

Published Twice Monthly by

LOCAL 1-S, UNITED RETAIL WORKERS, UNAFFILIATED
125 West 33rd Street New York 1, N. Y.

President: Sam Kovenetsky

1st Vice Pres.: George Gurian — 2nd Vice Pres.: Elizabeth Hammond

Editorial Board

Carl Lutz

William Roschak

Dorothy De Mauriac

Editor: Dick Pastor

Peace and Profits

While working men and women throughout the world intensify their prayers for peace, many business men give their loyalty to the sign of the dollar and add the load of higher prices to already burdened people.

While little men of good will anxiously scan the headlines and the casualty lists and hope that some acceptable formula can be found which will avert worldwide disaster, many businessmen gleefully remove old price tags and replace them with higher ones.

The average worker cannot afford to hoard, even if he is so inclined. "Scare buying" comes not from fear of shortages but from the fact of unnecessary and unscrupulous price increases. The average worker is only intent on getting all he can for his hard earned money. He buys in anticipation of his needs because he reads of the greed and the haste with which the men of commerce announce rises in the price of coffee, leather, wool, rayon and the whole long list of basic essentials.

We are firmly opposed to hoarding. Our opposition to profiteering is firmer still, for we recognize profiteering as the root cause of the fear which drives people to buy today what they may not need for many months.

We regret the fact that neither the President nor the Congress has been bold enough to speak out in favor of immediate price controls. We believe that it is the solemn obligation of our government to protect its citizens against the acts of piracy committed by some who value their profits more highly than they prize their government or their citizenship.

To prevent further loss of buying power through spiralling prices we urge that every member of our Union write to President Truman immediately and demand that retail prices be rolled back to the June 25th level and urge that he act without delay to establish a governmental agency which will be responsible for seeing that they stay there. Let us make our voices heard — TODAY!

A RE-STATEMENT OF POLICY ON OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The workers of this country, including our 8000 members of Local 1-S, have received no relief from oppressive anti-labor legislation and they are burdened with the growing threat of economic disaster. They need be armed well to win relief, avert disaster and to protect not only their jobs, but their economic and political freedom.

Union members need and deserve a paper which brings to them the news, specific facts and general information which most directly concerns them in their jobs, their union and the world in which they live. They need a paper to serve their ends, reflect their thinking and respect their wishes. To meet this need the Executive Board has brought this paper into being subject to your continuing approval.

As our Union has been dedicated to the continuing fight for the attainment of true democracy, so too is this newspaper dedicated.

As our Union has been a remorseless fighter against discrimination in its many forms, so too will this paper fight.

As our Union has opened its meeting floors to full and free discussion of the issues, so too will this paper open its pages.

As our Union has struggled for the economic well-being and security of its members, so too will this paper struggle for those ends.

It is our profound conviction that only when the people know the facts are they fully capable of making correct decisions and carrying out a correct program of action. We believe that ill-informed or mis-informed people present the gravest of all threats to our democratic principles and to a democratic system of government.

Our policy will be guided solely by determining whether or not a given thing is good for the workers, because we fully agree with the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln . . . "That which harms labor is treason for America."

We will not engage in ideological debate, but will bear in mind that we have successfully united all shades of political opinion as well as representatives of all races and creeds, around a program of economic action for the well-being of all. We will concern ourselves with the issues which bear on that program.

The Inquiring Photographer

THE QUESTION: What do you think of our new contract?

JAMES NEWTON —
157 Receiving Dept.



As contracts around the town go I think ours is the best. There's still room for improvement in such things as wages, hours and unresolved inequalities. I'm not completely satisfied with what we've got, but I certainly think we are well on the way to perfection. Just think of the job security our contract gives, the personal security of our Health Plan and all our other benefits. It's a good deal!

ROSALIND LAMPNER —
Cash Time



I think our new contract is really wonderful. Our wage gains are good, our Health Plan is wonderful and our department won adjustment of a long standing inequality. I think there's just one weakness and that is that three years is a long time to be tied down. So far as I know the standards we've won are the tops in the city and I'm proud of it!

FELICE DE FELICE —
74 Dept.



Although the new contract may fall short of our original intentions it's about the best that could have been won under the circumstances that existed during negotiations. The strength of the contract is the strength of the people themselves working together in their departments and throughout the store. Such unity will help guarantee many more victories in the future.

ALICE LENNON — PBX

I think the contract is very good. It's fair to everybody. The wage adjustments are to the benefit of all. The full company payment of the Health Plan is marvelous. It's too bad we didn't win the 35 hour week, but we'll have other opportunities and we will win it. Because the Union won new prestige, management's attitude is better towards us in the department. We like it!

ANNA TOCCI — 138 Dept.



In spite of Macy's continuous plea of poverty our Local 1-S Negotiating Committee won a good contract. We didn't get all we wanted, but there's always a next time. If we stick together and show the same bargaining skill and determination we're sure to remain the pace-setters in the city. There's still lots left to fight for and we're willing to fight hard.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



"Steak and chicken, chicken and steak! Can't we have any variety?"

Our Contract Proves Its Worth

By PRESIDENT SAM KOVENETSKY

I am very happy to be able to report that in the weeks which have passed since our new agreement was ratified more and more members have come to appreciate the worth of the bargain we drove.

There has been a tremendous amount of discussion about the contract, and as people have talked they have come to realize that this latest one marks another big step forward in the firmer establishment of basic union principles as well as in the winning of concrete and specific gains.

Our wage increases continue to make our scale the highest in the industry in New York. We are all well aware of the fact that recent international developments have led to profiteering and unwarranted increases in the cost of living.

We should be equally well aware of the fact that our Union won substantial "cost of living increases" during the life of previous contracts and there is nothing to stop us from doing so again!

No contract is ever "perfect" and no wage increase is ever "enough." The struggle for better wages and better working conditions will continue so long as the workers are represented by our militant union.

Members of our Local 1-S enjoy greater assurances of real job security than any other union members in the industry. A careful reading of "Union Voice," official organ of the Distributive Workers Union, clearly shows that elsewhere in the department store field workers are still subject to arbitrary firings and other anti-union practices by their managements. Local 1-S has succeeded in writing into its agreement specific guarantees against the replacement of regular workers with college trainees, intimidation of older workers or any other device the company may try to use to harm our members. Our contract makes it almost impossible for the company to lay off a worker who has more than one year of seniority. Our contract forces management to rehire those

with less than one year of seniority before they hire a new worker.

Every clause of our contract, backed by the alert militancy of our members, provides ample protection against company-inspired abuses. Each of us can be proud of the record we have established for the just solution of grievances. We can all be sure that our job will never be done. We shall continue to make progress in the fight for higher wages and shorter hours. We will continue to seek new guarantees for still greater security.

We have a long way to go, but let us always remember that we have already gone farther than anyone else!

Actors Wanted For Prize Winning Play

The Herald Square Players, under the auspices of Local 1-S, will produce Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Our Town" as their next offering. Jack Paritz, director of the group, announced that tryouts for parts in this play will be held on the evenings of August 28 and 30 and September 1st at the Union office, 125 West 33rd Street.

The cast of "Our Town" is a large one and there are roles for many contrasting types. Men and women in all age groups are needed. Children of Union members will also be welcomed for the juvenile parts.

"Our Town" will be the sixth production of the Herald Square Players and the first under the sponsorship of Local 1-S. A large showing at the tryouts will help make this the most successful production of all.

Anyone wishing to try out for a part should leave his name, address and telephone number at the Union office. People interested in back-stage work, costumes, lighting, publicity, etc. are also requested to advise the Union office.

The play will be presented in the latter part of October at an exact time and place to be announced later.

Credit Union . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The following members were elected officers and members of the Board of Directors at the first meeting, held on July 19th: Sam Kovenetsky, President; Robert McLean, Vice President; Max Wald, Treasurer; Agnes Wagner, (Tables), Secretary; Anthony Burns (D33), Berries Gordon (FBP), Richard Schiff (D88), Murray Rimland (J2) and Jack Toucey (W20).

Elected to the Credit Committee were: Louise Totten (D27), Ann Berman (D97) and Pauline Brooks (D124).

The Supervisory Committee consists of: Robert Brooks (D128), Chairman; Catherine Blatt (D139), Secretary and Pauline Kotinsky (D137).

Said President Sam Kovenetsky, "Management has always had to deal differently with workers who are not totally dependent upon each week's pay envelope. Through consistent and voluntary savings each of us can gain a measure of the economic security we need to be able to fight freely and fully when the time comes. Money in the Credit Union will give us the opportunity to do many of the things we have not been able to afford. I earnestly hope and strongly recommend that every member of Local 1-S will become a member of the Local 1-S Credit Union as soon as possible."

WHY SO SAD? 1-S CHEERS WAILING LAD

Even through his tears the boy's Utah drawl could be heard. When shirt salesman Ruby Kaplan turned to the lad's father and asked why his son was crying so pathetically the father told him that the child had a terrible toothache and asked if there was a dentist in Macy's. Ruby told him that there was no dentist in the store but that the Union had a top-notch man from its Medical Panel close by.

Father and son went racing across the street to Nelson Towers. A short while later the two returned, this time accompanied by the entire family. They marched across the street floor to Ruby's counter. Without fanfare the father grasped Ruby's hand and said simply, "God bless the Union!" The son just smiled.

1-S Staff Enlarged

In order to maintain streamlined service to its members the Local 1-S staff has been brought up to full strength with the addition of three Administrators at Herald Square. The main store staff now consists of: Mollie Grater, Sam Levine and Tom Raffaele in Selling, Bob McLean, Non-Selling and Dorothy Pandolfini, Offices. Bill Roschak divides his time between non-selling and the office division.

KNOW YOUR ADMINISTRATOR

While still studying voice at famed Juilliard School of Music Roberta Felsen came to work in Macy's music department for the 1939 Christmas season. At the end of the holiday rush Roberta was asked to stay on as a full timer. She

tossed a coin and music school lost. As she puts it, "I had hoped for a very short career in the store and a long one in music. Like so many others I found myself giving up my dreams in favor of a salary — even the small one that I was being paid."

Assigned to the Flying Squad, she covered a lot of territory inside Macy's. She said, "It was as I toured the departments and saw the rough deal the people were getting that I became strongly interested in Local 1-S."

"A small group of us who were Union-minded saw the gains the people in non-selling were scoring under the union's leadership and decided then and there that the selling departments had to be organized, but fast!"

It wasn't long after that decision had been reached that Roberta began to edit a mimeographed newspaper called "Union Sparks" which became the voice of the Union in the selling division. Favorite reading was the "Tain't Fair" column which listed the grievances and gripes of the week.

Not long after the paper made its appearance Roberta was fired because of "low seniority." This charge was made at a time when the company was free to high-handedly fire anyone, regardless of length of service. Roberta recalls that "it was under the pressure of an unfair labor practice charge that I won reinstatement and the company offered me an executive job. It came as quite a shock to the Better Job Bureau when I told them I did not want



any job where I wouldn't have the protection of the Union! They had just never heard such brazen talk before!"

Told to pick her spot, Roberta chose the Book Department. Back on the job, fear and anonymity were put aside and "Union Sparks" boldly listed the names of its editors as well as the names of the people involved in the grievances published.

Roberta sighs as she begins to tell of the first negotiations for the selling division. "There were about 700 of us and the talks dragged on and on. We finally won the right to have a Union Shop in the departments where we had a majority."

Shortly before the negotiations ended Roberta got married and left the store for her honeymoon and a long rest. The war interrupted both when her husband enlisted and was assigned to the OSS. During the war Roberta tried her hand at professional newspaper work.

With the end of the war she returned to the department store field as an organizer for the now defunct Department Store Joint Board which was then engaged in a campaign to organize the workers at Abraham and Strauss.

As Roberta remembers it, "Sam Kovenetsky asked me to take a leave of absence from the Joint Board to aid 1-S in organizing the Jamaica store. Sam warned me that if the job took more than six weeks I wouldn't be paid. The job was done within the time limit and the rest is more recent history."

Roberta is still an active partner on the Union team which is working towards equalization of Branch Store rates with Herald Square and further increases for all members of Local 1-S.

Still tops on her agenda as an Administrator Roberta lists: an end to all discrimination based on race, creed and sex. She also says she wants a part in helping to create a united labor movement which will carry out the militant role for which American Unions were founded.

Union Voice Hides the Facts . . .

(Continued from page 1)

that the agreement signed by Local 1-S has provided more dollar value for its members, and has provided greater opportunity for additional gains which will mean money than the contracts signed by the other stores.

But to be effective a contract must go beyond dollar value in the benefits it extends to Union members.

The Local 1-S agreement of 1949 was the first to establish \$35.50 as the starting minimum in Department Stores. The same agreement was the first to extend to department store workers and their families the protection of a health and hospital plan financed primarily by the company. The very same contract set the pace for the industry by compelling management to transfer in order to avoid layoffs based on seniority.

Local 1-S proudly set the "pattern" for the industry in the city. With an average wage of \$55 per week as compared with an average of \$50.75 prevailing at

Gimbels and Bloomingdales we find our efforts hampered by the fact that they have lagged so far behind us.

It consistently amazes us to read in Union Voice one or another of the DWU affiliates being forced to stoppage because management puts non-union workers into Union jobs or because management waives seniority. We are amazed, not because we know such practices are far from Macy thought, but because by our strength and by our contract we limited Macy's ability to impose such anti-union practices on the members. We had supposed, and it turned out we were wrong, that the Unions in the other stores commanded a like measure of respect.

We don't like to knock the next guy, but we don't like to be called a kettle by a pot. The wage security standards won by Local 1-S continue to be the highest we know of. We don't expect it, of course, but it would be nice if the editors of Union Voice published an apology for their obviously misleading articles.

1-S Team Wins Softball Honors

The Herald Square 1-S team clinched the UV League championship by running roughshod over the hard-fighting Avnet (Local 6) team by scores of 4-0 and 4-2 in the playoff series.

The mighty arm of Al Isaksen and the thundering bats of the team on the squad have put the outfit into a class by itself.

The lineup for the season tournament play was: Pitcher, Isaksen, Catcher, Tom Macear, and Alex Schwendeman, First Base, Ray Toro, Second Base, Ralph Velez and Murray Weiman, Third Base, Captain Vic Bologna. Working in Left Field were Chris Flaim and Fred Soto, Center Field, John Prestipino, George Ellis, Right Field, Jim Callahan. At Short Field, Sol Deakin and at Shortstop Dave Tully. Jimmy Newton managed the champs.

Only in the last inning of the last game did the 1-S team face a serious threat. In that frame the visitors put men on first and third with none out. Avnet third baseman John Pushniak drove a line hit to right field which sent the ships racing back. Ships sent the ball with a high leap into the air at the end of his run and one tally had crossed the plate. Had he missed his try the try runs would have been scored.

Following this spectacular pitcher Isaksen bore down and the next two batters out of the park to wind up the season and in possession of the title.

MEDICAL PLAN — for the name and address of the doctor nearest you CALL the Union Office — LA 4-9714 or Associated Physicians Medical Group — BU 8-4296 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

BLOOD BANK — If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL Elizabeth Hammond at the Union Office — LA 4-9714.

Board Votes . . .

(Continued from page 2)

being planned for the benefit of the Welfare Fund the evening of Friday, October 20 at the Hotel Commodore.

Vice President George Gurian, reporting on the Local 65 demonstration, told members of the Board that Local 1-S had adopted a "hands off" policy when it became apparent that the action did not directly involve members of our Union. He underlined the point that the Local 65 appeal had been directed to Macy customers and that Local 1-S had not been asked to participate.

For full details of the Ludwig Baumann election campaign see the story on Page 1.

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